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Questions on Doctrine Conference Opens Way to Healthier Theological Dialogue

More than 200 scholars, pastors, administrators and lay members of the Adventist church gathered at Andrews University from Oct. 24 to 27, 2007, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine*, a book released as a response to doctrinal inquiries by conservative Protestants in the mid-1950s. During the past half-century, the book has been the subject of an intense debate among many Adventists—centering on the book's treatment of the human nature of Christ.

Many of the participants at the *Questions on Doctrine* 50th Anniversary Conference had been part of that contentious debate. "I think it is safe to say that no prominent players in the controversy ... were left out," said Robert Johnston, professor emeritus of New Testament at Andrews University who chaired a panel discussion. "Every possible view that could be reasonably discovered was credibly represented."

Though there were some concerns that this conference would itself lead to new controversies, the spirit

Dana Kendall Returns to Her Alma Mater

This fall Andrews welcomed back Dana Kendall as an assistant professor of psychology. Kendall returns to the Behavioral Sciences Department, where she spent her undergraduate years from 1995 to 1999. "I liked it so much, I had to come back," she said.

After graduating from Andrews in 1999, Kendall attended graduate school at the University of Central Florida, where she specialized in industrial/organizational psychology. For her graduate research, Kendall conducted a study in which she paired freshmen with seniors in an anonymous, online mentoring program. She was aided by her husband Scott, a computer programmer, who set up the technical end of the experiment.

Kendall hopes to set up a similar mentoring program at Andrews. Rather than teaming up students with other students, however, Kendall envi-

sions a system that connects students with alumni out in the working world. She also hopes to initiate various support groups on campus, to reach out to people in the Adventist church who suffer from problems that they keep to themselves. "If you are not broken, why do you need any grace?" she asks. "The Bible is so clear about comforting one another,"

Kendall says. "I don't think we do that as much as we could."

"Psychology is just such a fascinating field, and so intertwined with spirituality, mind and heart," says Kendall. "I like to get students to stretch their minds."



Dana Kendall

Anthony James

Robert Moncrieff, student news writer,
University Relations

exhibited by the participants of the conference was anything but contentious. Colin Standish, president of Hartland Institute who presented a paper, remarked that this was "one of the most inspiring conferences" he has attended. Roy Adams, associate editor of *Adventist Review* who also gave a presentation, observed that such an

atmosphere was possible because "just about everyone was compelled to adjust their attitude" to be more sensitive toward each other's views, "even if minds may not necessarily have changed."

Not only did cordiality mark each session, but also some healing took place among participants. "This conference ... gave people the long-needed

opportunity to share their views, listen to others' positions, and start to heal relationships that have been damaged for so long," said Bronwen Larson, an attendee from Loma Linda, Calif.

Another attendee, Lisa Clark Diller of Collegedale, Tenn., observed that "there was so much tear-shedding and constant reaffirmation of the Christian love that we share that I know the Spirit moved in really powerful ways." She continued, "Hopefully, from now on, people will recognize that it is too easy to caricature people you disagree with and that face-to-face prayer and study are the way to have unity in diversity."

All the papers presented at the conference and the video recordings of all the sessions will be available in January on the conference Web page at <http://qod.andrews.edu>.

University Relations staff



Attendees at the conference participated in Communion during the final Sabbath morning service in the chapel of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Rebekah Heblus